

BIOSECURITY IN DAIRY FARMS

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INTRODUCTION

The entry of a disease into a holding can lead to serious economic losses.

The application of biosecurity measures reduces the risk of entry and spread of diseases and results in an improvement in the health status of the farm.

OBJECTIVES

- Design and validation of a questionnaire on biosecurity measures on farms of dairy cattle.
- Know the attitude and barriers in the application of biosecurity measures.

METHODS



Bibliographic review about cattle biosecurity evaluations.

Face to face interviews to validated questionnaire.

Semi-structured questionnaires to a sample of vets were used from Galicia and Catalonia.

RESULTS



1. Design and validation of the questionnaire

It focuses mainly on external biosecurity and evaluate: entry of animals, vehicles, location of the farm and visits, management, facilities and hygiene.

2. Attitude and barriers in the application of measures

Vaccination and measurements in the milking parlor are the main measures applied. The control animals introductions is very relevant and involves a high risk but is rarely applied.

Visitor and vehicle control was perceived as important but difficult to be applied.

Awareness of the implementation of measures seems to be a major barrier and advice on improving biosecurity is very low. Among the most relevant difficulties that limit the use of measures are the economic pressure and the profile of the farmer.

CONCLUSIONS

- There is little application and awareness of biosecurity.
- There are many barriers that limit the application of biosecurity measures and awareness seems to be an important factor.
- The level of biosecurity seems to have high room for improvement. Advising could improve implementation.